and June 30, 1849, was 84,361, against an increase of 3,280 upon lines opened; and in all 200,000 persons employed of late years on railways must now be seeking a livelihood in other ways. The total amount expended upon railways at the end of 1849 was about 290,000,000*l.* At the end of 1849 the 5,996 miles in operation represented a capital of about 197,500,000*l.* The gross receipts in 1849 amounted to 11,806,000*l.*; net available profit about 6,729,420*l.* or 3.40 per cent. The passenger and goods traffic during 1849 amounted to 11,806,498*l.*, of which 6,277,892*l.* was for passengers, and 5,528,606*l.* for goods, cattle, parcels, mails, &c. The number of passengers was 83,841,539, of which 7,292,811 were first class, 23,521,650 second, 15,686,911 third, 17,203,411 parliamentary, and 136,766 mixed. The gross receipts for the first amounted to 1,927,768*l.*; second, 2,530,968*l.*; third, 711,592*l.*; parliamentary, 1,104,884*l.*; mixed, 2,676*l.* The parliamentary continues to increase considerably; for, at one period, the third produced much more than the parliamentary. Finally, it is rather remarkable that what all the rampant royalty of railway kings, in the hey-day of railway prosperity, could not or would not do for the promotion of the public safety has been done by the chastening influence of a little adversity; for it appears from the return quoted in this report, that in 1849 "only five passengers were killed from causes beyond their own control, being a great reduction on the number thus returned in the preceding year. The number returned as injured by accidental causes beyond their own control has also been very much decreased, being one-third less than in 1846, so that, considering that the passengers who availed themselves of the railways in this country in the year 1949 amounted to an increase of 10 per cent. upon the preceding year, and of 16 per cent. upon the number conveyed in 1847, it is most satisfactory to perceive that there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of accidents."

THE IRON TRADE.—A notice has been issued to the men employed at the several ironworks in the Merthyr district, announcing that a reduction of wages, to the extent of 10 per cent., will shortly be made. In pig-iron more furnaces have been put out of blast in the South Staffordshire district. The quality of Staffordshire iron, too, appears to be deteriorating in the midst of other adverse circumstances. "By the admission of hot blast, with its accompaniment of cinders and other worthless materials, into our furnaces," says a Birmingham paper, "by the substitution of pigs brought from various distant parts for those made in our own district—by the introduction of squeezers, puddling from the blast, and many other questionable inventions, the quality of our manufactured iron is so affected that Staffordshire iron will soon be not Staffordshire, and will cease to be trusted for those important purposes for which it is naturally pre-eminently adapted; hence, it will cease to command a market, independently of reference to prices in other districts. . . . In becoming dependent upon export trade, we have to compete with the produce of all other districts and countries, in a field where the chief condition of success becomes cheapness of price. Without, then, an assimilation of expenses to those paid by our competitors, it is evident the struggle will be of short duration; and, however unpalatable such a step may be to the operatives, however unwilling the masters may be to curtail the enjoyment of their workmen, or whatever difficulties may be encountered in carrying it into effect, there will shortly be no alternative but a reduction of wages." A gloomy enough prospect, truly, for both men and masters. But, in the main, the exhaustion of the iron trade is but the natural collapse of a temporary system, fostered for a special purpose—that of railway formation; and, although some of its forced branches must wither, the root will remain as before, and the trade will again flourish, when reduced once more to its legitimate and permanent dimensions.

EMERY PAPER.—The Fishery Board has issued a circular, recommending fishermen to catch as many dog-fish as possible, skin them, and dry their skins for sale, to be used in lieu of emery paper, for which we happen to know that they are by no means a bad substitute.

SPANISH ARCHITECTURE.—In your criticism of our work, "Examples of Architectural Art," by the favourable notice of which we feel much gratified, and beg to return thanks for it, you say that we treat Spanish architecture unjustly, doubtless founding your belief on Mr. Ford's eulogies of it; but Mr. Ford with whom I have had two or three interviews, is evidently a *Herrera*-an devotee, and being but an admirer of architecture, cannot speak authoritatively on the subject. I the think it more important to mention this, because many young architects might be induced to visit Spain, and really derive little architectural profit in comparison with the expense. That we have some truth on our side, as regards the Renaissance to which our remarks allude, is shown by the subjects we have given, being the most choice we could find. As to the Escurial, so highly praised, size is its greatest merit, and one only leaves it with regret that so much masonry should be piled up on such a scale of grand baldness. The Gothic and Moorish of Spain are quite another affair.—J. B. WARING.

THE METROPOLITAN SANITARY ASSOCIATION have resolved that, during the Parliamentary recess, the association will apply itself in organising an effective movement to obtain, in the next session of Parliament, an Act for the improvement of the present dwellings of the poor, for the repeal of the window tax, an Act to provide an improved supply of pure water to the metropolis, and an amendment of the Nuisances Removal and Contagious Diseases Act. The association appeals to the public for support and aid in the necessary efforts to obtain these objects.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY has been open since June. Although the pictures are not so numerous as in former years, yet the selection is superior. A large number of valuable specimens have been contributed by English artists. In the ante-room are the works of architecture and sculpture. The collection is small this year. Amongst them are, "Design for an Early English Church," by Alfred Jones; "Perspective View of Great Southern and Western Railway Terminus, Dublin," by Sydney Wood; "Front Elevation of National Gallery," by John J. Lyons; "Plan of principal Story of ditto;" "Entrance Front of Dundalk Chapel," &c., by same; "Design for new Roman Catholic Chapel at Clonmore, county Louth," by John Bourke; "Model of Mausoleum," by H. M'Donnell, &c.

TEWKESBURY MINSTER.—The large window of St. Mary's Church, which has for some time been undergoing repairs, has lately been opened; the whole of the stone work having been renewed under the superintendence of Mr. Pugin, and stained glass added by Mr. Hardman. The stone work comprises two tiers of seven compartments each; in the centre of the lower one is a figure of the Virgin Mary, on the left hand of whom are placed St. Matthias with the axe, St. Thomas with the spear, St. James the less with club; and on the right St. John with cup, St. Matthew with builder's rule, and St. Simon with the saw. In the centre of upper tier there is a representation of our Saviour, on the left of whom are put St. Bartholomew with the knife, St. James the great, pilgrim's staff, and St. Peter the Gospel and the keys; and on the right St. Paul with the sword, St. Andrew with the transverse cross, and St. Philip with staff and Latin cross. The window above the transom is divided by the intersecting mullions into eight compartments, four above four, on each side of the centre in which are placed the prophets Amos, Zechariah, Jonas, Micah, Zephania, Haggai, Obadiah, Malachi, Isaiah, Joel, Habbakuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Nahum, Hosea, and Daniel.

A SAILING CHURCH.—The Thames Church Mission Society have a cruising church for sailors. The collier crews could not go to church, and accordingly the church has gone to the colliers. The Thames chaplain is the Rev. W. Holderness. The rev. gentleman has a roving commission, and never before had rover so peaceable a commission.

NATIONAL GALLERY FOR SCOTLAND.—£10,000 have been voted towards the expense of erecting in the city of Edinburgh buildings for a national gallery, and other purposes connected therewith, and the promotion of fine arts in Scotland.

BIRMINGHAM ASSESSMENT.—The parish of Birmingham is about to be surveyed under the Poor Law Assessment Act, and the local *Journal* is very properly calling attention to the necessity of appointing the most fit and proper person to make the assessment that can be obtained. The writer says:—"Auctioneers, land-measurers, highway contractors, frequently call themselves surveyors, but the man who is to assess Birmingham should be a competent surveyor and architect too, in every sense of the term. Nor is this all,—he ought to have a thorough knowledge of surveying jurisprudence. He ought to be able to show, not only why he has assessed a particular property at a particular amount, but that he has done so in accordance with acts of Parliament and legal decisions. The Birmingham surveyor must not be permitted to leave behind him a large legacy of legal experiments, and one of the inquiries made of the candidates will most naturally be, whether their assessments have been followed by numerous appeals, or the reverse?" 36,000 assessments are involved.

TENDERS

For the survey and valuation of the parish of Birmingham, with map of same three chains to the inch (nine and one), forty-two tenders lodged, namely:—

	Survey, &c.	Months	Map.	Months
	£		£	
Humbert and Bedford, London	1,200	12	1,200	3
J. Barnett, London [REJECTED]	1,000	15	750	3
C. W. Robertson, Doncaster	949	18	1,360	24
Austin and Shout, Bristol, &c.	1,000	15	600	3
G. Taylor, Brecon	2,375	21	1,385	6
F. Empson, Birmingham	1,000	24	200	6
G. Dyke, London	850	12	650	6
Daniel and Hinnemon, Oakham-borough	3,700	...	.....	...
Newman and Son, Leeds	2,800	18	.....	...
C. Mappleston, London	1,850	24	150	6
C. Sanderson, Reading	1,140	18	60	18
Lesemore and Cosford, Taunton	700	12	300	6
R. Dickson, Godalming	1,000	18	1,100	6
H. Wyatt, Salford	490	12	300	6
J. W. Cole, London	1,964	12	745	6
Young and Dobson, London	2,640	18	350	6
P. Gannon, London	3,450	18	100	6
G. Thompson, jun., Knaresborough	800	13	300	6
Nelson, Collard, and Jury, London	2,875	12	1,257	6
Hutchinson, O'Hagan, and Bell, Preston	2,000	12	1,100	12
R. Hyde, London	4,500	24	2,000	12
J. Webb, Worcester	1,700	24	200	24
R. Cantwell, London	10,000	24	.....	...
Hebbert and Paneh, Northallerton	1,000	6	200	4
J. D. Paine, London	945	10	1,575	3
G. Haselhurst, Chesterfield	4,750	51	.....	...
J. Bowron, London	1,900	8	150	3
W. Abbott, St. Neots	3,000	24	1,000	12
T. Buckston, Malton	3,000	24	.....	...
P. King, Oxford	3,000	18	250	6
T. Weden, Birmingham	2,800	36	700	12
G. Taylor, Brecon	1,325	24	.....	...
C. Heaman, London	1,700	18	270	4
I. Newey, Birmingham	1,445	21	740	6
F. Sandon, Burton Cobfield	2,950	12	1,050	6
R. A. Sharp, York	3,400	30	1,000	6
E. B. Gisborne, Nottingham	1,997	30	1,975	9
J. W. Hawthorne, Birmingham	2,000	30	280	6
J. Booth, Keighley	1,540	24	50	6
Fowler and Sons, Birmingham	1,735	30	.....	...
R. Humfray, Miles Owen	1,000	24	1,000	6
J. Ludlow, Birmingham	490	24	.....	...

It was resolved by the guardians that the tenders and testimonials be referred to a committee of the whole board, to examine the same, and where necessary, to obtain the attendance of the parties, and to select six of the most eligible tenders for subsequent approval. A short conversation occurred, on moving the resolutions, in which it was stated, according to *The local Journal*, that if any of the persons tendering were required to attend the board their expenses would be paid.

For finishing carcasses of two villas, Fir Grove, Weybridge, for Sir John Easthope, Bart. Mr. Ambrose Poynter, architect:—

Higgs, London	£1,600
Ondre and Son, Egham	1,490

For a new House and Offices for Mr. C. W. Wiser, Finchley. Mr. E. Woodthorpe, Architect.

Outhwaite	£2,805
Myers	2,311
Piercey	2,258
Locke and Nesham	2,055
Watson	2,048
Trego	1,998

For a School of Refuge, Dalston. Mr. W. Tress, Architect.

Chater	£3,177
Trego	3,164
Haynes and Co.	3,125

St. George's Hospital. Mr. A. Mee, architect.

Piper	£2,647
Grimsdell	2,595
Mansfield	2,585
Cubitt and Co.	2,480
Trego	2,400
Holland	2,348
Jackson	2,348
Locke and Nesham	2,280

* Survey and map only.

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